

Flag Day June 14



Father's Day June 17

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JUNE 17 MEETING
Featuring William De Michelis, Naomi Zamir, and Joe Smiell's Band



President's Message

The May meeting got off to a slow start because of a scheduling misunderstanding, but once it got started, it was terrific. Special thanks to Steve Balich, one of the Bay Area's most popular accordionists, who entertained the gang until the regular program got going. Steve is one of the kingpins of the

Accordion Club of the Redwoods in Petaluma, and his playing just radiates toe-tapping rhythm. Steve promised that he'll be back with his group later in the year.

Chuck Berger, "Midiman Chuck," as he is known on the Internet, drove down from Portland, Oregon to headline the meeting, and in his usual fashion, just wowed everyone. Chuck is a master with his Petosa Midi accordion, and his big band samplings are so authentic, that you'd swear it was a twelve piece tenor band playing. Chuck was joined by Steve Balich for some memorable musical duets, and then I got to play along with Chuck. Too bad if you chose to run in the "Bay To Breakers" instead of coming to the meeting last month, you missed another great afternoon.

Our June meeting features William De Michelis and Naomi Zamir for the first part of the meeting, and then none other than our own Joe Smiell, and his five-piece, "German style" band. Joe "wrote the book" on polka, waltz, schottische, and just about every style of folk music - guaranteed that you'll want to dance. Come and join us, you'll be glad you did.

I want to wish all of you dads a wonderful Father's Day on June 17th, and I hope you will come and spend the afternoon enjoying some great live music with us.

Loyal member, Dale Winter passed away recently, and on behalf of the San Francisco Accordion Club I extend our sincere sympathies to Barbara Winter.

Remember our club picnic is coming up in July, and will be at the Oyster Point Yacht Club this year. We'll have a Bar B Q, and lots of great music, so save the date: July 15th.

June is "National Accordion Awareness Month": The Galla-Rini Accordion Camp is in July at Dominican University in San Rafael, and Cotati is coming up in August. That's plenty of accordion stuff to keep you from getting bored.

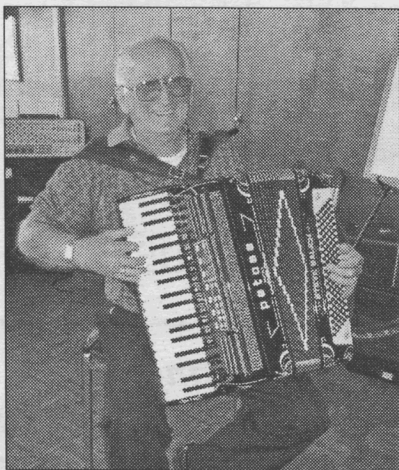
See you June 17th, play every day, and remember,
REAL MUSIC IS LIVE !!!
Peter Di Bono

Directions to Oyster Point Yacht Club, 911 Marina Blvd., South San Francisco
From 101 traveling either north or south, take Oyster Point exit. Turn right on Marina Blvd. (be careful not to turn right on Gull Drive, just before Marina Blvd.). Continue past gate house to sign "Oyster Point Yacht Club." There is plenty of parking and ramp access.

Our Website www.sanfranciscoaccordionclub.com is incomplete and under construction

May Meeting

For the meeting "warm-up" period, **Steve Balich** stepped up to the plate and did a fantastic job of entertaining us while we waited for the arrival of our first act, **Alex Yasko**. Thanks so much, Steve!



Steve Balich

Alex Yasko, whom we have known in the past as Alex Yaskin, arrived and got set up in record time. He described some of his musical styles, which cover the gamut. First he played a Swedish style piece, followed by a Blues style, *Break It To Me Gently*.



Alex Yasko

Alex plays a Russian Bayan, which has a 5-octave range on the right hand and a mellow tone something like an organ. Alex provides his own percussion by tapping his right heel against his accordion case. Continuing his wide variety of musical styles. Alex played what he called a "super heavy rock" number, and then a Reggae arrangement called *White Side of Pale*. Next came what Alex called a "punk rock" arrangement followed by an original composition by Alex, a rumba called *When I'm Alone*.

Alex does indeed put on a very interesting and offbeat show. Thanks, Alex!

Next we were treated to a jazzy performance by **The Di Bono Trio**, featuring our Pres. **Peter Di Bono** on accordion, **John Stafford**—originally from New Orleans—on clarinet and sax (John also did some vocals and filled in with maracas, both single and dou-

ble); and **Bob Rizzetto** on bass. All were acoustic instruments. The names of most of the pieces got past me, but they played eight pieces, including a vocal about New Orleans sung by John Stafford, a Bossa Nova



Di Bono Trio

Wave, a number that might have been *Moonlight in Vermont* featuring John on sax for this one. They played a piece or a medley that included the familiar *Indifférence*

among other melodies; *September in the Rain* and *Begin the Beguine*. A great sound from some great musicians.

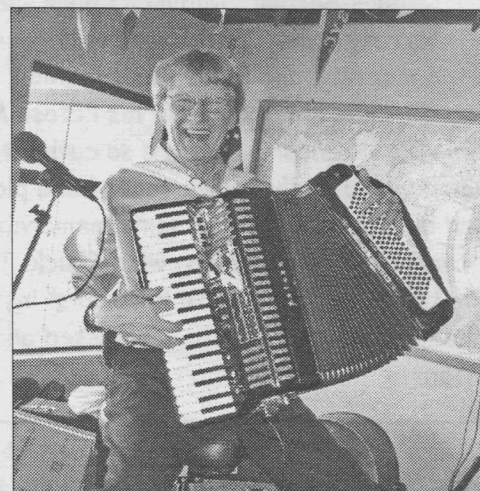


Susan and Jerry Venturi

Among our guests at this meeting were **Jerry and Susan Venturi** from Venturi House of Music in Madera, CA

(see their ad in our newsletter every month). What a delightful couple! I was very happy that Susan won the drawing of Chuck Berger's CD! Other winners of door prizes and cash drawings included Charles Ratto, Bob Pisani, Jennie Balich, and Thelma Bartoli—twice! Thelma generously donated her cash winnings back to the club in memory of Lou Soper.

The second half of the meeting featured **Chuck Berger**, who drove down from Portland to play for us. As most of you know, Chuck is one of the world experts on the



Chuck Berger

MIDI and how to make it sound like an authentic full band. Besides that, you couldn't know a nicer guy.

Chuck said he'd like to play the 1812 Overture—but will pass this time! Instead, he started out with the lovely *But Not For Me*, followed by Glen Miller's *String of Pearls*, *Perdido* (with sections working against each other—very difficult), *Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans* highlighting the sounds of banjo, clarinet, tuba and drums. Chuck played a great polka of which I did not get the name and did not immediately recognize; then the beautiful tango *Jealousy*. Chuck demonstrated some very effective key changes while playing "*Some-a-da-Where-a-my Love*," using mandolin for the verse, then the orchestra for the chorus—and moving up by half-steps at various places.



Chuck Berger and Peter Di Bono

Chuck then called Steve Balich up to play a duet with him: *Give Me Back My Heart* and *Daj Daj*. They were great together!

Then Pres. Peter joined Chuck with *Here's That Rainy Day*. Well, Peter reminded

us that it happened to be his birthday—so we all sang Happy Birthday to Peter.

We would have happily gone on listening but



Steve Balich and Bob Rizzetto



"Afterglow" jamming with Peter di Bono, Chuck Berger, Dennis Stoscher, Bob Rizzetto

the end

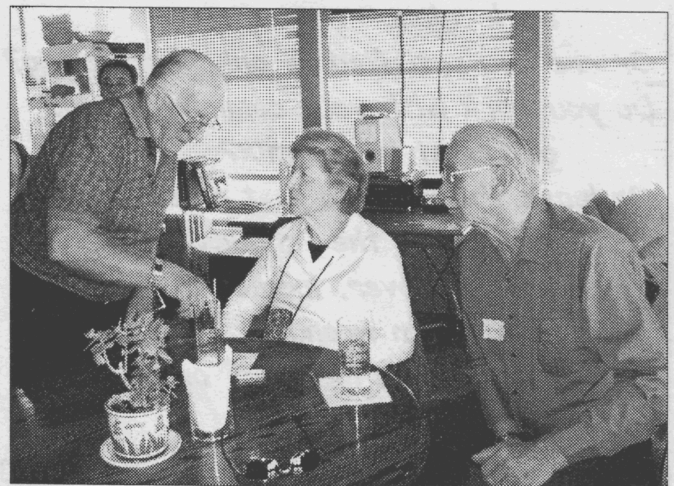
had to come sometime, so Chuck wound up his terrific program with *Solitaire*.

The "afterglow" in the lounge turned into a real party. Chuck and Bob Rizzetto and Peter stayed around and we had a got a great jam session going. Altogether a very pleasant afternoon at the beautiful Oyster Point Yacht Club.

Val



Steve and Jennie Balich



"Afterglow" Steve B. and Sharon and Gus Greyhosky

Sponsored by the Silicon Valley Accordion Society
!!! THE ONLY BAY AREA APPEARANCE !!!
SAMMY THOMAS in Concert

2:00 p.m. Sunday, July 1, 2007

Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue, San Jose

\$10 per person (under 18 years free)

Sammy is the current AAA (American Accordionists' Association)-sponsored U.S. champion. He placed 4th in the world in the Junior Virtuoso Performance category in Norway in 2006. SVAS is giving support to enable Sammy to represent the U.S. this year in the 60th Coupe Mondiale in Washington, D.C. this August.

Many of us heard Sammy play three years ago at the Cotati Accordion Festival—he was a sensation then and only 15 years old! Now he is 18 and has been touring and winning competitions all over the country.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear this gifted young musician!

*We've printed this before, but now
more than ever it bears repeating*

Do You Just Belong?

*Are you an active member, the kind who
would be missed?*

*Or are you just content that your name
is on the list?*

*Do you attend the meetings and mingle
with the flock?*

*Or do you stay at home, to criticize and
knock?*

*Do you take an active part to help the
work along?*

Or are you satisfied to only just belong?

*Do you work with your committee, and
get right in and mix?*

*Or leave the work to just a few, and
talk about the "cliques"?*

*Think this one over, member, you know
right from wrong.*

*Are you an active member, or do you
just belong?*

Al Freudenberg

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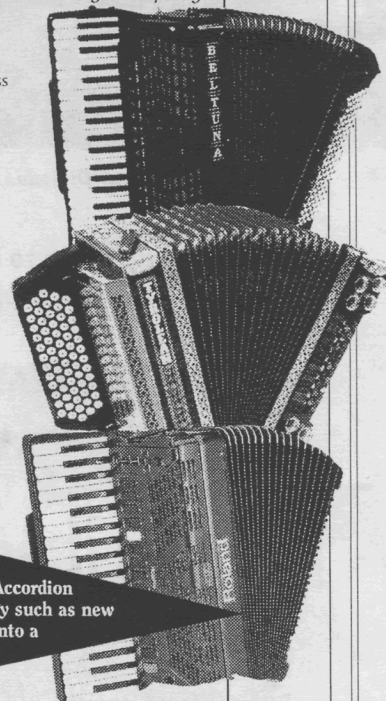
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ACE Ensemble News

We are now practicing for our fall concert(s) and our Holiday program. Stay tuned . . .

ACE players: Aldo Argenti, Jr., Peter Di Bono, Reno Di Bono, Mary-Alice Eldon, Lynn Ewing, Ron Harris, Marian Kelly, Valerie Kieser, Deborah Knapp, Nora Maz-zara, Kevin McCarthy (percussion), Anne Métais, Frank Montoro, Bob Smith, and Sharon Walters Greyhosky. Joe Smiell is our musical director and arranger, and Chris Arild is our hard-working Librarian.

Fun Band News . . .

The San Francisco Accordion Band, a.k.a. the "Fun Band," meets at Val's house on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. The members seem to like meeting at my house, which is a wonderful convenience.

We will be among the performers at **Tom Cordoni's "Celebrate the Accordion" weekend in Petaluma** June 23 and 24 (we'll be playing at 2:00 on Saturday afternoon). We're also presenting a program for the annual "Piccolo Pavilion" event in Corte Madera at 5:00 p.m. on July 29. This is a delightful community event (see page 6). —and of course, our **SFAC picnic** July 15!

Word Has It . . .

. . . That **Ken Judnick**, a longtime friend and club member, has been having some serious heart trouble. We're pulling for you, Ken!

Welcome New Members

Kay and Bill Brachna of San Francisco, although they are not players, enjoy "Oldies" and classical music on accordion.

Judy Scafiani (? Judy please correct me—I can't read the handwritten name!) and **John Graziano** of Millbrae love all types of accordion music.

Gino and Doris Bava of Millbrae enjoy "Oldies," modern/jazz and Latin music.

Lawrence Caserza of Daly City enjoys "Oldies," Classical, European and Latin Music.

**A HEARTY "WELCOME ABOARD"
TO ALL OF YOU!**

"Where is my friend playing?" Contact:

Steve Balich North Bay (707) 874-3494

Ron Borelli Peninsula (650) 574-5707 rborelli@aol.com

Richard Denier in Carmel rdenier@sbcglobal.net

Peter Di Bono San Francisco peterdsf@gmail.com

Reno Di Bono South Bay ourhike@aol.com

William Di Michelis South Bay wdd777@comcast.net

Joe Domitrowich South Bay info@capricious-accordion.com

LOU SOPER MEMORIAL

A reminder, for friends of Lou Soper, that there will be a Celebration of Life service for Lou on Saturday, June 16 at 11:00 a.m. at Fremont Chapel of the Roses, 1940 Peralta Blvd. in Fremont. A reception will follow.

A nice note from a friend of Lou Soper

Donald Haga of Moorhead, MN, writes, "Enclosed is my check as a memorial to my music-loving-performing-friend Lou Soper. I am certain the world is a better place because of Lou's countless contributions..." Thanks, Don!

And another note, from Erik Weiss:

"Dear SFAC, Thank you for the wonderful CD of accordion music. I listen to it all the time." Thanks, Erik!

Your Executive Board . . .

Didn't meet in May because of scheduling problems of the members. The June meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 10. The picnic will be the main agenda item.

When do our fellow accordion clubs in the Bay Area meet?

Accordion Club of the Redwoods (ACR) regularly meets on the third Monday of the month, Hermann & Sons Hall, 860 Western Avenue, Petaluma. Contact: Kris Nelson krisnelson@aol.com or (707) 795-4860.

Silicon Valley Accordion Society (SVAS) meets on the first Sunday of the month, 1:30 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue between Keily Blvd. and Stevens Creek Blvd. Contact: Bill Topogna (408) 984-5290.

Golden State Accordion Club (GSAC) has three divisions. The **Vacaville** club meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30, Moose Lodge, 6585 Gibson Canyon Road, Vacaville. The **Humboldt** Club meets on the third Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Humboldt Swiss Club, 5403 Tompkins Hill Road, Loleta, CA 95551. The **Sacramento** group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento. Contact for all the GSAC Clubs: Carole Enneking (707) 864-2359.

Good Time Accordion Club (GTAC) meets on the second Wednesday of the month 7:00 p.m. Escalon Community Center, 1055 Escalon Ave., Escalon. Contact: (209) 545-3603.

Northern California Accordion Society (NCAS) meets on the third Thursday of the month, Granite Rock Grill, 5140 Pacific Street, Rocklin, CA. Contact: Vince Cukar (916) 791-3041.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER !!!

Out of approximately 300 members, many of whom live out of the area or are truly unable to help, it seems there must be *someone* who can take on the job of Treasurer, board member-at-large, Programs! Everyone we have asked has declined. What does it take to get someone to take some of the burden off the few people who have to do ALL the work, ALL the time! This cannot continue indefinitely.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER !!!

MANY THANKS . . .

. . . to Telmo Echeverría, Anne Métails and Sue Hirigoyen for their willingness always to help with the proofreading, folding, labeling, stamping and mailing of newsletters; and to all the generous people who bring food to the meetings and help with the serving. Even if

we don't get all the names . . .

Your volunteer spirit is very much appreciated!

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The Las Vegas Accordion Convention,

takes place Monday through Thursday, **June 18-21, 2007** at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Headline artists include **Leo Aquino** from Canada, **Daniel Desiderio**, **Tony Lovello**, **Walter Ostanek**, **Mario Padone**, **Soundscape Accordion Trio**, **Sammy Thomas**. Featured legends will be **Art Van Damme**, **Peter and Mady Soave** and Comedian **Pete Barbutti**. Also appearing will be **Gina Branelli** from the UK, **Gordon Kohl** from San Diego, and our own **Ron Borelli** and **Joe Domitrowich**.

The Convention will be celebrating 100 Years of the Piano Accordion! For details visit www.AccordionStars.com.

Fifth Annual Celebrate the Accordion Weekend

In Petaluma, CA **June 23 and 24.**

In the courtyard of the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum, 4th and B Street

Many types of accordions will be featured—piano and button box, chromatic, diatonic and MIDI, playing a wonderful variety of music. Something for everyone and no charge to anyone!

Tom Cordoni and the co-chair of "Celebrate the Accordion," **Kris Nelson**, President of the Accordion Club of the Redwoods, will be introducing these great acts and doing a little entertaining of their own.

Come and join the fun! Saturday, June 23 and Sunday, June 24 from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Joe Smiell's Button Box Camp

July 8-14 at Soda Springs in the beautiful High Sierras! A fantastic experience!

Call (707) 751-0525 or (510) 832-6938

Galla-Rini Accordion Camp

July 22-26, at Dominican University in San Rafael.

Musical Director is Joe Smiell

For info contact Tor Arild (650) 851-7831, e-mail mcarild@earthlink.net or Marian Kelly (650) 854-1896 or e-mail kelly.marian@gmail.com **See Flyer Enclosed**

Kimberley International Old Time Accordion Championships (KIOTAC)

July 9-14, 2007

Featuring a concert by **Sammy Thomas**, family dance events each evening with various dance bands, including the **Al Meixner Trio** whom we have seen at Cotati; a large contingent from the **Angel Music School** in China, which has several students entered in the competitions; the **Killenbergs Orchestra** from Norway, active since 1930; **The Cottonpickers**, the **Western Senators**, **Beyond the Pale**, **The Softones**, the **Kawa Family Band** and much, much more. In addition to the competitions (\$12,000 in prizes), there will also be jam sessions, dance workshops, exhibits and trade tables, a souvenir booth, a food fair, and free daily "Platzl" entertainment all week long. For details visit www.kiotac.ca or e-mail info@kiotac.ca, or FAX (250) 427-4547 or phone (888) 4kiotac.

**The Confédération Internationale
des Accordéonistes'**

**2007 Coupe Mondiale World Accordion
Championships**

Taking place August 13-18 in Washington, D.C.

Co-hosted by the AAA and the ATG. For info:
www.ameracord.com or e-mail Joan Cochran Sommers

SFAC Evening Ensemble Practice

Sadly, we have had to give up on the evening ensemble, at least for now, because Joe Smiell's schedule just does not allow him the time for it.

SFAC Band Practice

Wed. May 9 and 23, 7 p.m. at Val Kieser's Home in Oakland
CALL AHEAD!! Please join us!
Info: call Frank Schlotter (510) 339-1163

Our Sincere Thanks

To those who generously donate to the Club.
Each year we start a new cumulative list of donors. If you donate and your name doesn't show up in this column, please call Val (510) 531-4836 or vtkacc@ifn.net and let me know. We want to be sure you are recognized! Thanks! So far this year your Editor has learned of donations from
Mark Zhagal (2)
Don Haga in memory of Lou Soper
Thelma Bartoli in memory of Lou Soper

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NAPKINS, CANS, BOTTLES, ETC. !!!!**

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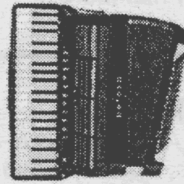
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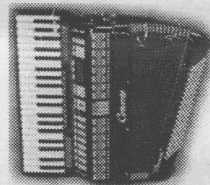


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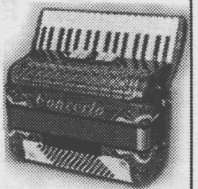
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\$10 for each guest

SFAC Officers

President: *Peter Di Bono*
(415) 753-1502 peterdsf@gmail.com
Vice President: *Joe Smiell* (510) 832-6938
Secretary: *Lore Warren*
(510) 783-2072; lorewarren@earthlink.net

Directors for 2006-2007

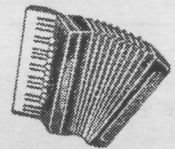
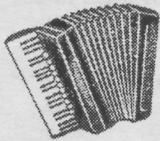
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Valerie Kieser (510) 531-4836 vtkacc@ifn.net
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We need volunteers for vacancies!
Call Peter or Val (see numbers above)

SFAC Newsletter Ad Policy

Members may place one small ad for one month free of charge in a given year; after that the charge is \$6.00 per issue. A business-card-size ad costs \$6 per issue or \$60 per year for members; a quarter-page ad costs \$15.00 for members; a half-page ad costs \$25 for members. A full-page ad costs \$50.00 for members. Discount available for ongoing ads. Ads placed by non-members will cost twice the above-quoted prices. A flyer advertising an event may be included in one issue for \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.

The next meeting will take place on
Sunday, June 17, 2007. Featured will be William
De Michelis, Naomi Zamir, and Joe Smiell's
Band. Great music, great musicians. See you
there! (Directions on front page)



**Newsletter of the
San Francisco Accordion Club**

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